Central University status to Barkatullah University

†2177. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted a proposal to Government for granting status of Central University to Barkatullah University, Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh in September, 2004; and

(b) by when the status of Central University would be granted to the said University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since the present policy is to consolidate facilities in the existing State Universities, the proposal has not been agreed to.

SC direction regarding Right to Education

2178. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has issued a notice in December, 2005 to the Union Government in connection with the enforcement of Right to Education of every child in the age group of 6-14 years by abolishing child labour in all forms;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reply given by the Centre;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are thinking of setting up of National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights;

(d) if so, the salient features of the Commission; and

(e) how the proposed Commission would help in eliminating the child labour from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (b) The Supreme Court has recently admitted a Public Interest Litigation, that prays for absolute prohibition of child labour in the wake of the Constitution

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(86th Amendment) Act 2002, effected in December 2002. The matter is still under consideration of the Court.

(c) to (e) The Government has recently notified the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act 2005 in the Gazette of India on 20th January, 2006 as Act No. 4 of 2006. The Act envisages constitution of a National Commission and State Commission for Protection of Child Rights and Children's Courts for providing speedy trial of effences against children or of violation of child rights and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Drop-outs of SCs, STs and girls

2179. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of students enrolled in class I who can complete Class X, the percentage of such students in case of SC, ST and girls alongwith the reason for failing to check the high rate of drop-outs;

(b) whether there is any law to ensure that children from all economic background have access to elite private schools;

(c) whether the economically backward children have a right to get education with equity; and

(d) whether a law would be made to provide education with equity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) As per information available with the Ministry, during 2003-04, the retention rate for Classes I to X of all students, girl students, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students was 37%, 35%, 27% and 21% respectively. Both Socio-economic and school related factors affect drop-outs.

(b) to (d) The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002, enacted in December 2002 seeks to make free and compulsory education a Fundamental Right for all children in the age-group 6-14 years by inserting a new Article 21-A in Part III ("Fundamental Right") of the Constitution.

Based on the report of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)